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James Earl Ray Wants Lawyer To Be Replaced by Mark Lane

WARTBURG, Tenn., Oct. 23 (UPI)— James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., asked today that his attorney, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, be replaced by Mark Lane, the New York lawyer who wrote a book on King assassination.

Mr. Ray said Mr. Kershaw was "deeply involved in a conflict of interest" because of a recent interview with Playboy magazine that included results of polygraph tests indicating that Mr. Ray lied when he denied killing Dr. King at Memphis in 1968.

Mr. Kershaw, the latest of 10 attorneys Mr. Ray has had since his arrest in 1968, responded to the request by asserting that his client was incompetent and required a psychiatric examination before his coming trial on escape charges.

Mr. Ray made his request in preliminary motions filed with Criminal Court Judge Lee Ashbury in connection with his trial on charges of escaping from Brushy Mountain State Prison June 10. The trial is scheduled for Thursday. Judge Ashbury took the request under advisement.